



SOUTHEAST NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Volume 34 (actually 31), Number 1
January-February 1983

Conference Calendar

February

6	Church Vocations Sunday
13	Race Relations Sunday
16	Ash Wednesday
19	East Ala./West Ga. Men's Fellowship Annual Ladies' Night
20	First Sunday in Lent
26	Ala.-Tenn. Executive Committee, Chattanooga, TN

March

4	World Day of Prayer
12	Leadership Training Workshop, First Congregational Church, Caddo, AL
19	Leadership Training Workshop, Antioch Congregational Church, Andalusia, AL
20	Leadership Training Workshop, Lanett Congregational Church, Lanett, AL
21	Earth Day
27	Palm Sunday
31	Maundy Thursday

April

3	Easter
22-24	Conference-Wide Spring Mini-Camp*
29-30 to May 1	Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, Jonesboro, GA**

* Trip to Laguna Beach, near Panama City, FL. This is a Conference-wide activity; all are invited. Watch for announcement/invitation and more information.

** See announcement attached to this newsletter.

CONFERENCE CORNER

These are tough days for those of us who believe that it is good for Christians to work together in today's dangerous and complicated world. Two media instruments of great influence, the *Reader's Digest* and CBS' "Sixty

Minutes,” have both attacked the two chief ecumenical organizations that exist today, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

It would almost appear as if there were a conspiracy to discredit these two organizations that bring together in common work and witness many different denominations around the world. Using figures that include the mission and relief dollars expended by all denominations through such enterprises as Church World Service (the primary humanitarian relief work of the churches) and the printing of such materials as the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, it is made to appear that vast sums are spent by the churches to fund these organizations. The truth is, the U.C.C. puts less than \$50,000 into each of these Councils.

The harder issue to answer is what programs are sometimes aided by these ecumenical councils. Some liberation groups in Africa as well as destitute people in Communist Vietnam and even Communist Poland have been assisted. I find it hard to see how sending food and medical supplies to desperately needy people is wrong. Jesus commanded us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. In a terribly divided and hostile world, the best and most effective way to move in many cases is by doing work cooperatively. This often includes other Protestant groups, Roman Catholics and even Muslims and Buddhists. From my years of service on the United Church Board for World Ministries I am convinced this is the wisest and best way to be good stewards of our limited funds to help people.

I will be glad to visit any church or ministerium that requests me to help answer questions and deal with this matter. I trust all our people to be fair-minded and to consider other points of view beyond the biased ones demonstrated in these two media. Christians are called first to follow Christ and be “His servants in the service of the human family.” We can fulfill this mission only as we continue to work with other Christians as well as to work through the structures of our own United Church of Christ.

--Emmett O. Floyd
Conference Minister

NEW HELP FOR OUR CHURCHES

In 1648 in Colonial America the Cambridge platform spelled out the Congregational Way. Through the centuries following and through the denominational mergers, many books, pamphlets, tracts, etc. have been published to clarify changing responsibilities and procedures. Even with these publications there has been a great void of accessibility of knowledge of the UCC Way—until recently. Now available to each of us is a superb undertaking that explains everything UCC members are likely to ever want to know. On 8 1/2 x 11” cards, color-coded and filed in the *Leader’s Box*, are four categories:

- A. Perspectives
- B. Positions, Offices & Organizations
- C. Tasks and Skills

D. Personal Growth

Everything from A to Z is explained. Each subject is written in clear simple terms and is cross-referenced with other cards offering a wealth of information that may be grasped at a glance or studied in depth. OCLL designed and developed this wealth of knowledge with participation from people throughout the denomination, including seven from our own Southeast Conference.

During the next few months the Rev. Joyce B. Myers, our OCLL regional staff person, will be conducting cluster meetings to demonstrate the use of the *Leader's Box*. Every minister and church member owes it to themselves and their churches to attend the meeting Joyce will be holding in their area. This is without a doubt the best and most complete source of information we have ever had or are likely to get.

--Warren A. Blankenhorn
Associate Conference Minister

MARY ELIAS

The Commission on Women wishes to express its appreciation to all the homes and churches in the Southeast Conference that opened their doors to our visitor from the East. The Advent visit of Mary Elias was a sari-wrapped reminder of the worldwide reach of our faith. The sharing of her life in Sri Lanka was a reminder of the challenge of the clash of cultures, a situation full of problem and potential. Mary is a teacher by profession, and of a lineage of teachers. We are grateful that she included the Southeast Conference in her classroom.

--Carol Jean Delcher

NEWS & NOTES

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of *Rev. William M. McCullars* of Columbus, GA. Mr. McCullars died January 24.

The February 6 U.C.C. Sunday Bulletin cover features a quote from *Emmett O. Floyd*. His words about OCWM are from one of last year's Southeast Newsletter publications.

Rev. Eugene Keen, pastor of United Church, Huntsville, AL, represented the U.C.C. at a formation of a new Presbytery uniting the two branches of the Presbyterian Church in January.

Rev. John Lackey, pastor of Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN, represented our denomination at the Tennessee Council of Churches meeting in Knoxville last month.

Food, fun and fellowship were enjoyed by all at Christmas dinners for Association Ministers and Spouses.

December 3 was the date for the East Alabama Association party at Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, AL. Mary Elias, our visitor from Sri Lanka, presented a fascinating picture of her native land. *Dr. A. R. Van Cleave* kept us all laughing with his speech, and *Louise Cox* presented a humorous poem about the rush at Christmas. Singing was led by *David and Brenda Chandler*.

North Alabama held their dinner December 4 in Decatur, AL at a local hotel. Special recognition was given to *Mrs. Guy Colbert*.

Central Alabama's dinner was December 11 at Talisi Hotel, Tallassee, AL. *The Rev. A. F. Howington*, a Methodist minister who is serving Watson's Chapel, Eclectic, AL, was welcomed into the group.

The school where *Marvin Brand* is a teacher was the site of the South Alabama Christmas dinner for Ministers and Spouses Dec. 18.

The Atlanta area Ministers and Spouses met for a Christmas dinner at the home of *the Rev. Ira W. Chace* in Marietta December 17.

Rev. James D. Merritt is now pastor at Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian in LaFayette, AL.

Wayde Washburn is pastor at Jones Chapel United Congregational Christian in Woodbury, Georgia. Wayde is a student at Candler School of Theology.

Rev. John Maust is now pastor of First Congregational Christian in Phenix City, AL. He was formerly pastor at Blackwood Church in Headland, AL.

Ralph Lee is now pastor at Bethel Congregational Christian Church in West Point, GA.

Dennis Courtney is now serving the Liberty Congregational Christian Church in Brantley, AL.

Karen Knodt is the pastor at Church of the Good Shepherd in Crossville, TN, a new church fellowship.

Warren A. Blankenhorn is serving as interim minister at Pine Forest United Church of Christ in Lanett, AL. Pine Forest is formerly Huguley Congregational Christian; the name change comes with the move of the congregation into a "new" building. The dedication of this new home was held January 30.

If you are interested in visiting General Synod June 23-28 and touring Pennsylvania contact Warren A. Blankenhorn, P.O. Box 773, Phenix City, AL 36867.

Rev. John Charles Mickle, retired U.C.C. minister and former pastor of 2nd Congregational U.C.C. in Memphis, brought the message to the congregation of First United Church of Christ in Sweetwater, TN, recently. The Mickles now reside in Chattanooga, TN.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

THE GOOD HOPE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BAKER, FLORIDA

For the past several years, the Good Hope Congregational Christian Church at Baker, FL, has combined Christmas caroling with a hay ride on Sunday afternoon before Christmas. Shut-ins and friends in the community enjoyed the visit of the carolers on December 19 to start this year's activities. The truck and piano were furnished by Norman Riley, the farm wagon by Jim Courtney; music was provided by Jeanette Henderson, piano, and Joe Brown, Guitar. Upon returning to the church the carolers enjoyed a meal prepared by Charles Henderson, Reggie Lundy and others. After the meal the young people of the church put on a beautiful and meaningful Christmas play; all were blessed by their efforts. Christmas gifts were then exchanged and music was presented by the church choir, Jim Courtney, leader, and special music presented by Jenee Boyette.

Worship continued with a four-day revival beginning Dec. 27. The pastor, Pete Courtney, was speaker Monday evening, Joe Brown spoke Thursday, Dennis Courtney (now pastor at Liberty Congregational Christian, Brantley, AL), was speaker Wednesday evening and Alton Nixon spoke Thursday night. These services were well attended and enjoyed by the whole church. On Dec. 31 the church continued this Christmas festival with old-time gospel singing featuring the Vigils Quartet from Pace, FL, the Courtney Family Singers, who are all members of Good Hope, and Tommy and Lamar Holliway of Baker. The ladies of the church served refreshments at 10:00 pm. At the midnight hour all ministers in attendance shared their thoughts; many denominations were represented. Approximately 250 attended this all night service, which ended at 2:30 am January 1.

Joseph Brown, church reporter, says, "the Good Hope Church is going into 1983 with great dreams and aspirations for the coming year. And under the leadership of our Pastor and the church officers working together and in harmony with the Holy Spirit, great things are going to happen." What an inspiring way to begin the New Year!

LOVE IN DEED ... LOVE INDEED: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

If any human beings need to be shown love in deed, they are the victims of war, disaster, hunger, drought or poverty. Love in deed can bring them food, water, shelter, tools and skills for sustenance, for health and for hope toward a better life. Where we cannot reach them ourselves with love in deed we can send our money—money that is then translated into deeds of love.

This is what ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) is all about. The suggested date for this all-church offering in the U.C.C. is March 13.

Planning early for this offering can increase the gifts this year. Your church can be prepared by:

Reading the OGHS Promotion Guide to complete planning by January. One copy of the Guide is in your *KeyPak*, another is in the shipment of OGHS materials sent to each church.

Ordering any extra materials needed by mid-January from Stewardship Council, 1505 Race St., Rm. 618, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Challenging your congregation to set aside \$1 a day, \$2 a day or more *for each of the 25 days between Ash Wednesday and OGHS Sunday*.

A new OGHS filmstrip, "Love Indeed," has a script for use with adults and youth and another script for use with children. A postal card for a free copy of the filmstrip is in the promotional material.

Note that a new film from Church World Service, "The Jewel Reclaimed," is available on loan free from the Conference Office. It depicts what a difference OGHS money can mean. Thanks for your part in helping to make such achievements possible through deeds of love that become love indeed!

JED SHARE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

With the Spring 1982 issue *JED SHARE* completed ten years of continuous publication, serving the church school teachers and educational leaders of the JED denominations. During this time it has performed a valuable ecumenical function, as first three and then six denominations worked together to provide a leadership tool for the JED partnership. The U.C.C. is one of the original three denominations of JED (Joint Educational Development).

A most distinctive feature, "Exchange," devoted to reports from local teachers and leaders about what is working in their church school, is only one of the features of this magazine. This section provides the basis for the SHARE part of their name, since it is a teacher-to-teacher sharing of real experiences in actual situations.

JED SHARE's aim is to serve the local church in its educational efforts. Is your church using this helpful material? To subscribe write JED SHARE, 132 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001. Yearly subscription is \$6.60 each, 10 or more to one address \$6.00 each; enclose payment with single order.

Curt's Nuggets

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

Our heart will always be directed toward that which we consider our supreme good. Is that "supreme good" God or ourselves?

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meetings of the six Associations of the Southeast Conference were marked by good attendance, spiritual programs and enthusiastic commitment to the growth and development of our churches.

Continuing our reports of the highlights of these meetings begun last issue, the following reports also include newly elected officers.

NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

A good attendance was recorded at the North Alabama Association Annual Meeting held at Liberty Hill Congregational Christian Church in Houston, AL. Moderator Roger Loosier led the meeting that included inspiration by word and song, reports from Warren Blankenhorn and Emmett O. Floyd, and a recitation of good and faithful work by officers and committees.

Newly elected officers are:

Moderator: Herschel Armour (Route 5, Moulton, AL 35650)

Vice-Moderator: James T. Lowery

Secretary-Treasurer: Eva Shelton

Member-at-Large: George Washington

Christian Education: Julia Dunlap

Church & Ministry: George Washington

Outreach: Lawson Clark

EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

An inspiring Annual Meeting was marked by the largest attendance in recent years at Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church in Pine Mountain, GA. Moderator Louise Cox presided over the day that included a sermon by Rev. Sandra Mullins, reports from the S.E. Conference staff, and reports from committees. Continued growth and development of the Association were evidenced by these reports.

Newly elected officers are:

Moderator: Louise J. Cox (Rt. 1, Box 3E, LaFayette, AL 36862)

Vice-Moderator: Donald Scovill

Secretary: Jerri Lewis

Treasurer: Donald Harmon

Member-at-Large: John Schofield

Christian Education: Roy Bain
Church & Ministry: Joseph French
Outreach: Arthur Dailey

SOUTH ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The South Alabama-Northwest Florida Annual Meeting was held Saturday, October 9, 1982 at the Good Hope Congregational Church in Baker, Florida. Registration began at 9:00. Reports from each of the nine churches in the Association were heard, along with reports from our Associate Conference Minister, Warren A. Blankenhorn, and our Conference Minister, Emmett Floyd. Special music was presented by the Courtney Family Quartet. A wonderful lunch was prepared and served by the Good Hope church. The afternoon session was concluded with a communion service.

Newly elected officers are:

Moderator: Elmer Carnes (Rt. 2, Box 85, Andalusia, AL 36420)

Vice-Moderator: Woody Clark

Secretary-Treasurer: Sue Jordan

Christian Education: Earl Beck

Church & Ministry: Joseph H. Brown

Outreach: Marvin Brand

FLASH!!!

Attached to this issue of the *Southeast News* is information about this year's Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, including a notice for those wishing to present resolutions.

Watch for registration forms and other information. Let's make this year's meeting the best ever, to have "MORE CHURCHES, MORE MEMBERS FOR GOD'S MISSION" in the Southeast Conference!

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

February 1, 1983

TO: Pastors, Ministers and Clerks

FROM: Emmett O. Floyd, Conference Minister
Freda D. Brown, Moderator

RE: Calling of the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

Dear Friends:

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ will be held April 29-30 to May 1, 1983 at Bonanza United Church of Christ, 10879 Tara Boulevard, Jonesboro, Georgia.

Every church is entitled to three delegates. In addition, each ordained and licensed minister and commissioned worker is a delegate. Churches of over 100 members are entitled to an additional delegate for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof.

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is "More Churches, More Members for God's Mission." The focus will be on church growth. Our keynote speaker will be the Reverend James W. Atchison, Secretary, New Church Development, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Each congregation is asked to prepare and bring a colorful banner (felt, burlap or any heavy fabric), no larger than 3 feet wide and 4 feet long. Include on the banner the name of the church, the date of its founding and a line representative of its history or heritage. The banner should be mounted on supporting poles for carrying or display.

The registration information, lodging costs and sites, and reports will be mailed out soon.

We hope you will be with us!

RESOLUTIONS NEEDED

Any individual or church desiring to introduce a resolution at the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting April 29-30 to May 1 is *required* by vote of the Annual Meeting to have such resolutions in the hands of the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, the Rev. Ira W. Chace, by *March 15, 1983*. His address is 3485 Pebble Hill Dr., Marietta, GA 30062.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Annette K. Piper, Editor
Published by the Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

The preceding was a transcription from the original publication, except for photographs and associated captions, and an advertisement for United Church Press on page 4. Neither the original nor the transcription are copyrighted or have rights reserved; they are in the public domain for free

use. Copies of the original may be obtained from the Southeast Conference office.

This transcription was recorded on July 3 and 4, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

